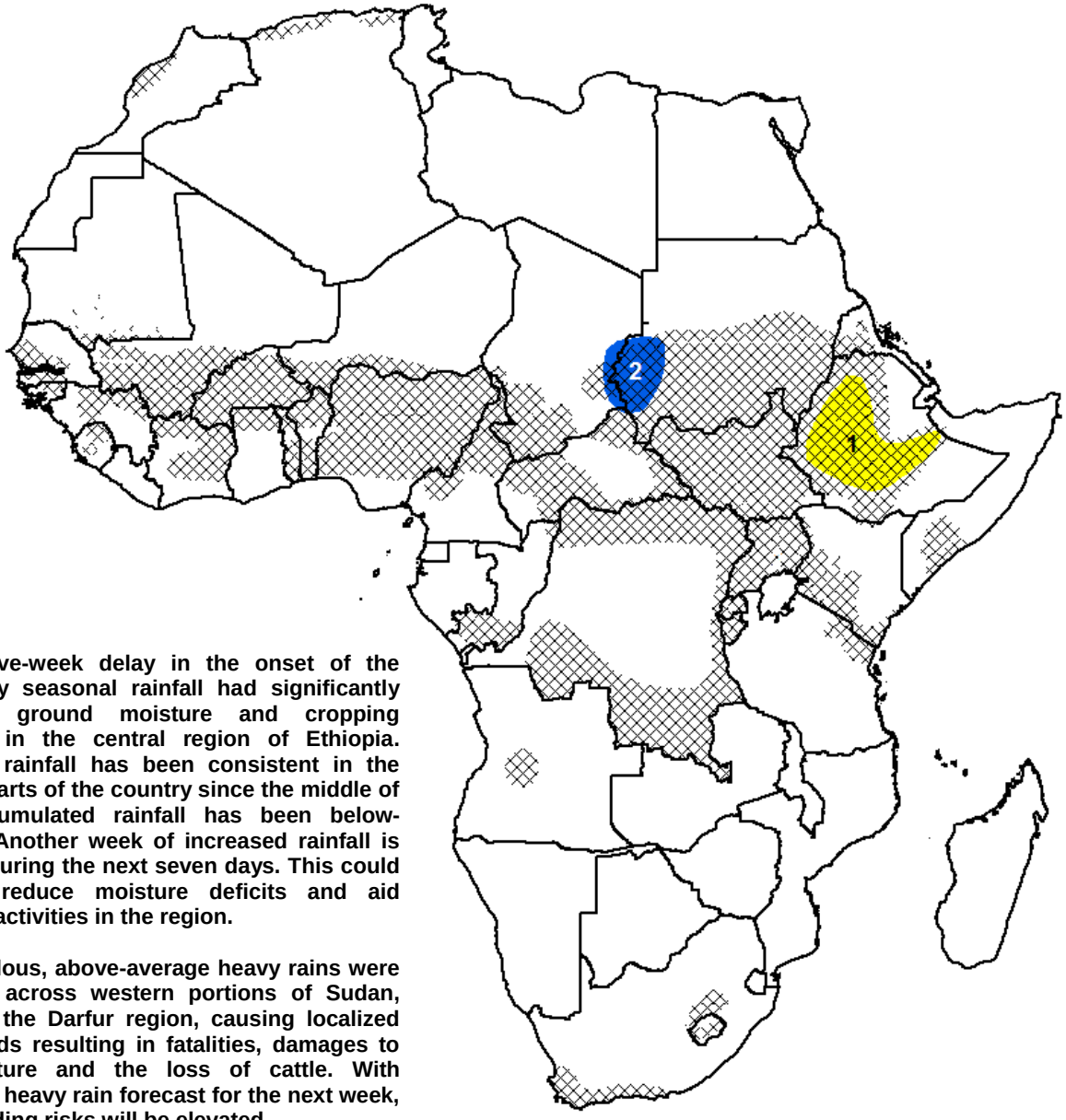
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# For USAID / FEWS-NET
# July 5 – July 11, 2012

- **Widespread, above-average weekly rains were observed across West Africa.**




**1) The five-week delay in the onset of the March-May seasonal rainfall had significantly impacted ground moisture and cropping activities in the central region of Ethiopia. Although rainfall has been consistent in the western parts of the country since the middle of May, accumulated rainfall has been below-average. Another week of increased rainfall is forecast during the next seven days. This could help to reduce moisture deficits and aid cropping activities in the region.**

**2) Anomalous, above-average heavy rains were observed across western portions of Sudan, including the Darfur region, causing localized flash floods resulting in fatalities, damages to infrastructure and the loss of cattle. With additional heavy rain forecast for the next week, flash flooding risks will be elevated.**

**Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.**

- July Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

**Abundant rain was observed along the Gulf of Guinea**

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded across West Africa. The above-average rains can be attributed to an increase in southwesterly winds which helped to push the Inter-tropical Front (ITF) farther north than average. The heaviest rains (>75mm) were observed along the Gulf of Guinea in Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon. Moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) extended to southern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ghana (**Figure 1**). Rain during the past week was 10-100mm above-average which has reduced or eliminated thirty-day rainfall deficits in localized areas in Burkina Faso and Nigeria. However, lighter rains (<20mm) in western Niger and northwest Nigeria have increased seasonal deficits and delayed planting in localized areas in the Zamfara region of Nigeria. Elsewhere, the anomalously northern position of the ITF since May could lead to favorable conditions for the breeding and migration of desert locusts into the Sahel region.

During the third dekad of June, average to above-average rains resulted in good soil moisture and cropping conditions across central Mali, northern Nigeria and southern Niger as indicated in an analysis of vegetation growth (**Figure 2**). In contrast, below-average rains during the middle of June in western Mali, southern Burkina Faso and northern Cote D' Ivoire and Ghana have continued to result in poor ground conditions through the end of June. Recent rains across these areas should result in improving conditions.

During the next seven days, rains are expected to be above-average across West Africa. Heavy rains (>40mm) are forecast for Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, northern Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and Niger. In contrast, light rains (<20mm) are expected along the coast in bi-modal regions including Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana.

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: June 26th – July 2nd, 2012**

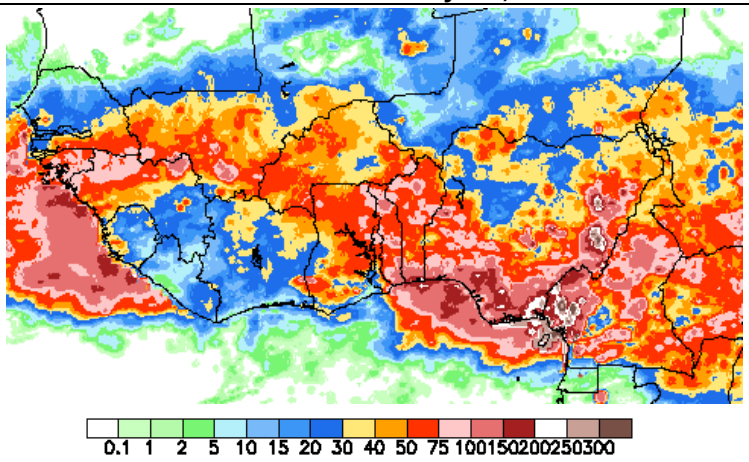



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly**
**Valid: As of the 3rd Dekad of June, 2012**

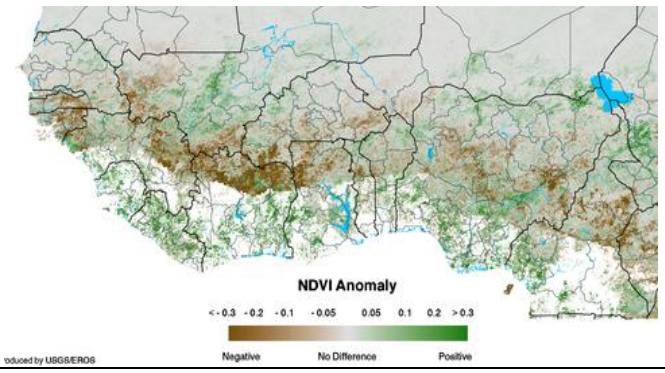



**Figure 2: USGS/EROS**

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**Heavy rains cause flooding in the Darfur region of Sudan**

During the past seven days, rainfall increased in spatial extent across east Africa; though, rainfall amounts continued to be below-average across portions of western/northern Ethiopia. Thirty-day deficits exceed 100mm in western parts of Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). In contrast, above-average rains were recorded in eastern Ethiopia reducing seasonal deficits in the eastern Oromiya region. Farther west, locally moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) were observed in Sudan and South Sudan with rains extending farther north than climatologically expected. Intense rains (>100mm) in the Northern Darfur region of Sudan resulted in fatalities, damages to infrastructure and the loss of cattle. Heavy rains in the Gedaref region of Sudan also resulted in flooding. For the next week, seasonally heavy rains (>40mm) are expected across western/northern Ethiopia increasing ground moisture while moderate to heavy rains (20-75mm) are forecast for much of South Sudan and southern portions of Sudan.

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)**
**Valid: June 3rd – July 2nd, 2012**

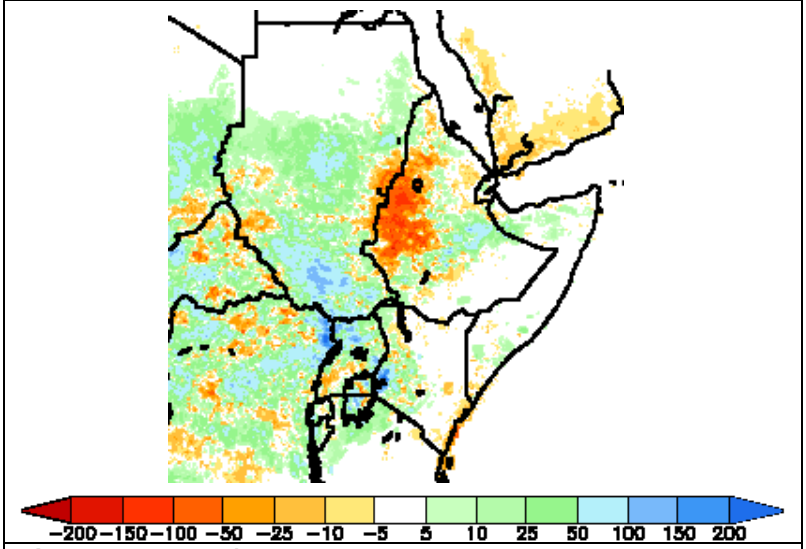


**Figure 3: NOAA/CPC**

**Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.**

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